

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03942 170320Z

16

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3942

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR PINS PDIP VN ASEAN

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE IN TOKYO: DRV CHARGE TRAN DUC TUE

REF: TOKYO 3619

SUMMARY: SINCE DRV EMBASSY OPENED IN TOKYO JANUARY 13,
CHARGE TRAN DUC TUE HAS ENERGETICALLY AND FAVORABLY
CULTIVATED THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. HE HAS COURTED
ASEAN DIPLOMAT PARTICULARLY, TAKING A LESS STRIDENT LINE
THAN HANOI TOWARD THE ASEAN ORGANIZATION. CONTRASTING
WITH THIS FAVORABLE IMAGE WITH DIPLOMATS, TUE HAS AROUSED
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AMONG VIETNAMESE STUDENTS, MANY OF
WHOM REGARD TUE AS COLD PERSONALLY AND UNSYMPATHETIC
GENERALLY TO THEIR PLIGHT. HE HAS INDICATED THAT ONLY A
SELECTED FEW WILL BE WELCOMED BACK IN THE "NEW VIETNAM."
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 03942 170320Z

BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY REGARD TUE

AS "PRO-CHINESE." END SUMMARY.

1. DRV CHARGE TRAN DUC TUE HAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED MANY MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS BY ENERGETICALLY MAKING CALLS AND ENGAGING IN GENERALLY MODERATE CONVERSATION. HE HAS APPROACHED ASEAN DIPLOMATICS IN CONCILIATORY FASHION, CASTING HIS REMARKS ABOUT ASEAN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY FROM RECENT STRIDENT CRITICISM OF ASEAN IN HANOI'S NHAN DAN. SINGAPORE POL COUNS ALI AND INDONESIAN MINISTER COUNS SATARI HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH TUE'S PERFORMANCE AND RELAYED TO US TUE'S REACTION TO THEIR QUERIES ABOUT CRITICISM OF ASEAN EMANATING FROM HANOI. TUE TOLD BOTH THAT HANOI WISHED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALL THE ASEAN STATES, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA SPECIFICALLY. NHAN DAN CRITICISM OF ASEAN SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS AN ATTACK ON ASEAN BUT RATHER AS EFFORT BY HANOI TO WARN ASEAN NATIONS THAT THEY SHOULD BE WARY OF AMERICAN MACHINATIONS TO TURN ASEAN INTO A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR INTRUSION INTO SE ASIAN AFFAIRS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IS WELL AWARE OF TUE'S PURPORTED PROSPEKING SYMPATHIES, TUE HAS SUCCEEDED THUS FAR IN MAINTAINING A NEUTRAL STANCE REGARDING CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. TUE BLANDLY SAYS THAT HANOI REGRETS THE STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO AND HOPES THAT THEY WILL AS SOCIALIST BROTHER COUNTRIES AMICABLY RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. "BOTH PROVIDED TREMENDOUS AID TO THE VIETNAMESE DURING THEIR LONG STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM." AT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS, TUE SHIES FROM CONTACT WITH BOTH RUSSIANS AND CHINESE AND SEEMS TO PREFER THE COMPANY OF CUBANS. (NOTE: WHILE THIS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS FAVORING A PRO-SOVIET SURROGATE, CUBANS PUSH A "THIRD WORLD IMAGE" IN TOKYO AND THEY ACTED AS CARETAKERS FOR THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY BEFORE TUE AND HIS STAFF ARRIVED.) ASEAN COLLEAGUES TELL US TUE SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND CHINESE WELL, AND SATARI THINKS TUE LEARNED INDONESIAN DURING ASSIGNMENT TO JAKARTA AS THIRD SECRETARY FROM 1971-72. HE IS STUDYING JAPANESE NOW. TUE STUDIED CHINESE IN PEKING FROM 1950-54 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ASSIGNED TO PEKING. HE HAS ALSO BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 03942 170320Z

ASSIGNED TO BURMA (1969-71) AND INDIA, ACCORDING TO SATARI. HE HAS TWO SONS AND A DAUGHTER BUT HIS FAMILY REMAINED IN VN.

3. FROM A VIETNAMESE CONFIDANT - A VERY WELL CONNECTED, NON-COMMUNIST STUDENT LEADER WHO HOPES TO WORK FOR "SOCIALISM WITH A HUMAN FACE" IN THE NEW VIETNAM, - WE GET A MARKEDLY DIFFERENT ACCOUNT OF TUE. TUE IS KNOWN

TO VIETNAMESE IN TOKYO AS A PROTEGE OF DRV LAO DONG PARTY
POLITBURO MEMBER TROUNG CHINH. HE IS WIDELY THOUGHT TO
SHARE TROUNG CHINH'S PRO-CHINESE SYMPATHIES. VIETNAMESE
COMMUNITY ALSO THINKS THAT TUE WAS SELECTED FOR
TOKYO BECAUSE OF THESE PRO-PEKING ATTITUDES. THEY
REASON THAT A PRO-CHINESE WAS CHOSEN FOR TOKYO TO
BALANCE LAO DONG SECY GENERAL LE DUAN'S PRO-MOSCOW
STANCE AND TO TAILOR HANOI'S DIPLOMATIC POSTURE TO WHAT
HANOI PERCEIVES AS A DEVELOPING PEKING-TOKYO-WASHINGTON
ENTENTE AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION.

4. THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT TUE IS PRO-CHINESE
ASIDE FROM HIS CONNECTIONS WITH TROUNG CHINH. AS A MORE
EXOTIC EXAMPLE, TUE PARTICIPATED IN THE YOKOHAMA TABLE
TENNIS GAME HELD LAST YEAR AS "SECRETARY" OF THE
RGSVN DELEGATION AND HE USED A CHINESE NAME IN HIS
IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTATION. (CHEN TE HUI -MATTHEWS
339/6162/2333)

5. COMMON IMPRESSION AMONG VIETNAMESE STUDENTS WHO HAVE
MET TUE IS THAT HE IS A COLD MAN. NO TET CEREMONY OR
ANY OTHER RECEPTION FOR THE VIETNAMESE STUDENT COMMUNITY
HAS BEEN HELD SINCE TUE OPENED THE DRV EMBASSY JANUARY 13.
ONLY FIVE STUDENTS, ALL MEMBERS OF BEIHEITO (PRO-HANOI
VN STUDENT GROUP), WERE SELECTED AND SENT TO SAIGON FOR
TET CELEBRATIONS. THE STUDENT COMMUNITY HAS ALSO BEEN
VERY SURPRISED WITH TUE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR RETURN TO
SVN AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES. TUE HAS COMMENTED
CANDIDLY TO MANY VIETNAMESE THAT THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF
VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN JAPAN - THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE
FORMER GVN AND THOSE WHO ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE PRG.
FORMER ARE CAPITALISTS, PRO-US OR PRO-JAPAN AND NOT ADAPTABLE
TO THE NEW VIETNAM. OF THE SECOND PRO-PRG GROUP, TUE HAS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 TOKYO 03942 170320Z

SAID THAT IF THEIR SKILLS ARE NEEDED BY THE NEW VIETNAM,
THEY WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. STUDENTS
ARE DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THIS ATTITUDE ON TUE'S (AND PRESUMABLY
THE NEW VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT'S) PART AND INTERPRET IT
TO MEAN THAT FEW OF THE STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO
RETURN TO VIETNAM. VIETNAMESE STUDENTS THINK HANOI
BELIEVES THAT STUDENTS WHO HAVE STUDIED IN WESTERN COUNTRIES
OR JAPAN WILL BE AN UNHAPPY AND A DESTABILIZING ELEMENT
AND THEREFORE DOES NOT WANT THEM TO RETURN, AT LEAST IN
THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. COMMENT: AS NOTED EARLIER (REFTEL), TUE APPEARS
TO BE A COMPETENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HANOI IN DIPLOMATIC
CIRCLES, BUT HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD VIETNAMESE STUDENTS
IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING. IF THIS IS WORLDWIDE LINE TAKEN

BY DRV DIPLOMATS, HANOI SEEMS TO BE UNWISELY SOURING THE ATTITUDES OF MANY POTENTIAL GOODWILL AMBASSADORS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND CREATING A LARGE COLONY OF DISAFFECTED EXPATRIOTS. THEIR TALENTS, WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD BE OF USE IN BUILDING A SOCIALIST VIETNAM, ARE ALSO SEEMINGLY BEING SPURNED.

7. TUE'S POSITION WORRIES THE STUDENTS NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF PERHAPS NOT BEING ALLOWED TO RETURN TO VN BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT POSES QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE IN JAPAN AS WELL. FONOFF HAS NEVERTHELESS ASSURED US FREQUENTLY AND RECENTLY THAT NO VIETNAMESE WILL BE FORCED TO RETURN TO VN AND DESPITE PRESSURES ENCOURAGING THE STUDENTS TO DEPART JAPAN AFTER COMPLETION OF STUDIES, THE GOJ WILL NOT ACTUALLY FORCE THEM TO LEAVE.

HODGSON

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